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# A. Travel Information





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## Travel a new world.

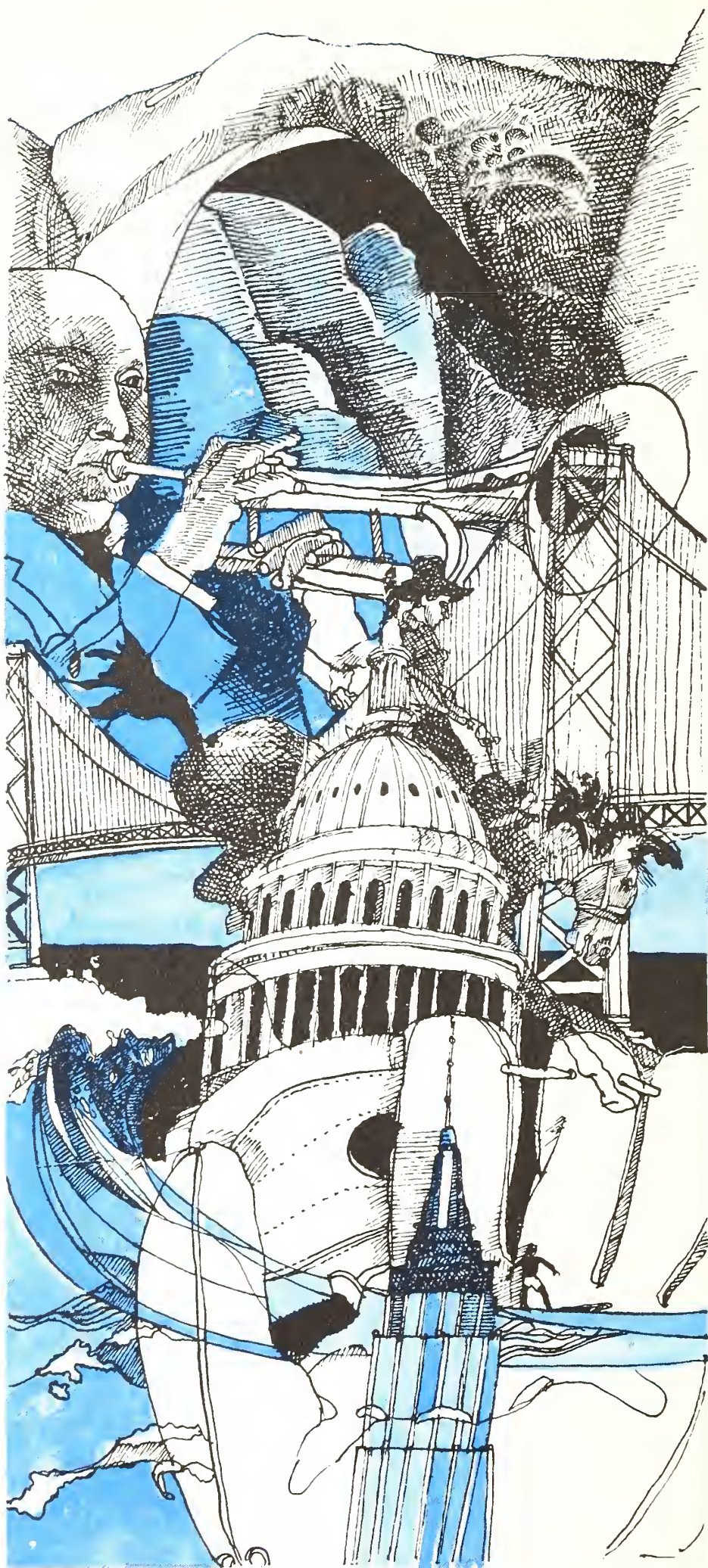
One of the pleasures of visiting the U.S.A. is the sense of personal discovery your trip can give you. This new world is not only different. It offers endless diversity: landscape, architecture, people, even the tempo of life varies from city to city and from region to region. Whether you are coming on a business visit or on a pleasure trip, explore a bit. Visit more than one place or one region. Discover for yourself some fresh little-known aspects of the U.S.A.

To help you plan your visit, this booklet contains general information on some of the things you might want to do and see, and specific information to make it easy for you to travel in the U.S.A.

For additional information, air and steamship company representatives are helpful.

Your local travel agent can assist you in planning your trip in detail. He will make the actual travel arrangements, book your accommodations and advise you on transportation within the U.S.A. He will also give you the particulars of all the new special reduced rates available only to you, as a visitor to the U.S.A.

What are you interested in?





### **Natural Wonders**

Niagara Falls, Grand Canyon and Yellowstone Park are world famous. But there are many other sights less well known but no less spectacular. The Painted Desert in Arizona dazzles the eye with fantastic colours; purples, pinks, blues. The giant sequoia trees in California were a thousand years old when Caesar ruled. The subtropical Everglades in Florida swarm with exotic birds and animal life. In the Mammoth Caves in Kentucky you can take a boat trip on underground rivers and lakes. These are just a few examples. Actually, every region in the U.S.A. has its unique natural wonders. Many of these spectacular sights are located in National Parks, vast areas of unspoiled wilderness where wildlife is also preserved. There are more than 30 National Parks in the U.S.A., covering approximately 14 million acres. Almost all can be reached by car or bus. Many National Parks offer: guided tours, accommodations, exhibits, and all kinds of summer and winter activities. For information inquire at your travel agent.

### **Man-Made Wonders**

As in the case of nature's unforgettable sights, you'll find technological wonders in every region of the U.S.A.: Great bridges. Atomic power plants. Giant loops and whirls of super-highways which pour automobile traffic through and around cities. Examples of bold, modern architecture from skyscrapers and vast shopping plazas to small wooden churches. And each city has its own architecture, personality, and interesting landmarks. A complete list of attractions in and around the city you plan to visit can be obtained in advance from your travel specialist. Then when you are visiting a city your hotel or the local Visitor's Bureau will help you select the kind of sightseeing that will suit you best.

## **Industry & Commerce**

Many industrial companies in the U.S.A. offer conducted tours through their plants. A Plant Tour Guide is available at your nearest United States Travel Service office. Or would you like to see the New York Stock Exchange in action? The Gallery is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 10 A.M. (1000 hrs.) to 3:00 P.M. (1500 hrs.). There are innumerable trade and professional conventions and exhibitions held each year in the U.S.A. The latest developments in all kinds of industries from toys to motorboats, from jewelry to electronics can be seen at these meetings throughout the year in all major cities. Lists of these conventions and exhibitions are available from your travel agent. Your hotel or the city's Convention and Visitor's Bureau will be able to tell you what particular exhibitions are taking place at the time of your visit.

## **Art & History**

Art treasures can be seen throughout the U.S.A. . . . from renown museums in major cities . . . to smaller permanent exhibitions of regional art . . . to two-room galleries featuring the work of one artist. Many small towns in out-of-the-way places will have their own gallery. Most museums do not charge admission and few ban the use of cameras. Many offer free lectures and concerts, and, often, you can relax in moderately-priced restaurants, over light lunch or a cup of coffee. Besides art museums there are others devoted to natural history, science, industry, archaeology, etc. Still others preserve or recreate the past: the life of early settlers, colonial days, Indian lore, the Gold Rush. It's well worthwhile to ask if there are any of those special museums near the locality you plan to visit.

## **Musical Arts**

The country which produced jazz, the blues, rock and roll, and gave new life to musical comedy holds many other surprises for those who love music. More than 1200 symphony orchestras perform in cities across the U.S.A. They give regular performances during fall, winter and spring. In the summer, many of these internationally famous orchestras tour the world or perform at music festivals held in the U.S.A. Opera flourishes, too. In New York alone there are two other opera companies besides the Metropolitan, and many other major cities have their own companies. Some cities offer a mixed repertoire of operas, operettas and musical comedies. And dance companies, both ballet and modern, perform in their home cities and tour others.



## **Jazz**

The U.S.A., years ago, introduced jazz and today new groups and new styles are constantly emerging. All across the nation jazz groups perform as the principal entertainment in many nightclubs. New Orleans, Chicago, New York and San Francisco are centers for hearing jazz. Exponents of "dixieland", "blues" and "modern" jazz appear in concerts almost any time of the year in virtually all of the larger cities.

## **The Theatre**

Musical comedy as well as interesting, often experimental plays are produced in large and small cities all over the U.S.A. Many cities have theatre-in-the-round where repertory companies present plays every night. In New York, one of the world's most noted theatrical centers, some highly successful "Broadway" shows are sold out months in advance. However, many hotels have ticket agents who may be able to help you obtain seats at these shows for a nominal commission. Most shows are not sold out and seats can be obtained at the box office. Good seats for Broadway shows cost \$5.00 to \$12.00. Matinees cost less. "Off Broadway" shows cost less and are usually small experimental theatres, often introducing new authors and actors.

From June until September you may watch a top stage or cinema star in a musical comedy held in an open amphitheatre or under a tent. Or attend a Summer Theatre performance given in a converted barn.

## **Night Life**

Bars in the U.S.A. stay open until midnight or later, and provide an inexpensive convenient place to meet friends. Often there is a small band for entertainment and usually a light meal can be purchased. Nightclubs in any of the larger cities range in style from small supper clubs with or without entertainment, to discotheques where fashions worn by the guests are part of the show, to large clubs with full-scale musical shows. (In Nevada and Puerto Rico gambling is allowed in nightclubs.) Many of the more famous nightclubs are in hotels which make them easy to find. Dinner and/or supper is usually served. Prices vary but tend to be high, with either a cover charge (\$2.00 and up) or a minimum charge (\$3.00 and up). In larger cities sightseeing companies offer tours of famous nightclubs. Your travel agent or hotel can arrange for these.

## **Festival USA**

Starting with flower festivals in the spring, and continuing throughout the year, hundreds of festivals are held all over the U.S.A. There are historical pageants. There are jazz festivals. Folk music festivals. Country Fairs. Square dances. Ethnic festivals. Harvest festivals. Festivals devoted to Shakespeare plays. At musical festivals featuring famous symphonic orchestras new works are frequently given their world premiere. Many of these festivals are held amidst beautiful surroundings; lakes, mountains, woods and the sea.

Rodeos are primarily "cowboy shows", exhibitions of ranch life skills. Cowboys compete against one another in rope-handling contests, and in riding untamed horses ("broncos") and steers. Rodeos are held regularly in many localities in the southwest and northwest of the U.S.A. Rodeo champions and Indians also tour the country in "Wild West" shows.

## **Sporting Events**

More than 1900 stadiums, baseball parks, arenas, coliseums and auditoriums are operating day and night and attracting millions of spectators to watch baseball, football (American), basketball, and ice hockey. You can see also polo and dog racing, boxing matches, athletic meets, tennis and golf tournaments, regattas. The country has 541 horse racetracks. Major auto racing events include among others the 12-Hour Endurance Race at Sebring, Florida, the Indianapolis 500-Mile Speed Race and the Grand Prix at Watkins Glen, New York.

## **Sports & Recreation**

With its mountains, forests, lakes and long shorelines, the U.S.A. provides every kind of sporting activity. All equipment from skis to a 30-meter yacht can be rented. Many cities have municipal tennis courts and golf courses which can be used at a nominal charge. The National Parks system offers some of the best facilities in the country for mountain climbing, horseback riding, hiking, skiing, boating and fishing. Information can be obtained from your travel agent.

### **Americans-at-Home**

One of the memorable joys of traveling in another country is meeting new people. You may arrange for person-to-person meetings with Americans through the Americans-at-Home program. You make your request by simply dialing a telephone number listed in a folder distributed by your travel agent.

Usually a minimum of 24 hours is required to arrange a visit and overnight invitations are not included. Host families often speak your language and share your occupation or interests. There is no charge for this service.

### **Travel Phone USA**

You may get telephone interpreter service (Spanish, French, German, Japanese) answers to questions on the location of tourist attractions, which airlines and bus lines serve particular cities and what hotels have interpreter facilities by picking up the nearest telephone anywhere in the continental United States, except Alaska, and dialing 800-255-3050\*, toll free.

\* In Kansas State, dial 1-800-322-4350.



Planning your trip to the U.S.A.



## Travel Formalities

When you decide to visit the U.S.A., write or call the U. S. Embassy or Consulate nearest you. You will be given friendly assistance and, as soon as your credentials are found to be in good order, a *Visitor's Visa* will be issued to you. Application forms for a Visitor's Visa are available at the U. S. Embassies or Consulates, and in some countries they can be obtained from the leading transportation companies and travel specialists.

When you apply for your Visitor's Visa, either by mail or in person, you will need the following documents: your *Passport*, which must be valid for at least six months longer than your intended visit, and one passport-size photograph. You will also be asked for evidence of your intention to return home after your visit.

There is no required form for such evidence, and the United States Embassy or Consulate issuing your visa will consider whatever you wish to furnish in this connection. It may be convenient for you to furnish a letter from your employer stating that you will be returning to your job after your trip to the U.S.A., or a letter from a respected member of your community who knows you (a government, bank or school official, a clergyman or other community leader), briefly describing your family or other ties in your community which would give you ample reason to return home after your visit. Usually, you may remain in the U.S.A. as long as six months for each entry you make on a valid visa.

You should also have a *Smallpox Vaccination Certificate*. Smallpox vaccinations are valid for three years from the date of issue. If you have traveled recently in the Far East, additional vaccinations may be required. The United States Embassy or Consulate issuing you the visa can give you full details.



## Customs

Customs regulations in the U.S.A. are liberal, and procedures at the port of entry can be dispensed with quickly and easily, if you have prepared the few necessary documents in advance. En route to the U.S.A. your airline or steamship company will furnish you with a customs declaration form and help you to prepare it properly. These are the items you are allowed to bring into the U.S.A. duty-free: personal effects (clothing, toiletries, jewelry); 300 cigarettes; 50 cigars; one quart (0.946 liter) of spirits or wine; items necessary for personal comfort or special purpose of visit; sporting equipment; automobile; cameras; boat; portable radio; binoculars; baby carriage; wheel chair; typewriter. However, if you plan to sell any of the above items, you will have to pay duty on them. A person who arrives in the U.S.A. as a visitor may bring in, free of duty and internal revenue tax, articles not exceeding \$100.00 in value which are to be given as bona fide gifts, including not more than 1 wine gallon (3.785 liters) of alcoholic beverage and not more than 100 cigars. (This exemption on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products is in addition to the personal exemption listed above.) This exemption is allowable only if the visitor is to remain in the U.S.A. for a period of no less than 72 hours.

A non-resident, en route to a place outside of U.S.A. territory, is allowed to take dutiable items sealed in bond through the U.S.A., duty-free, provided the total value of the articles does not exceed \$200.00.

## Caution

Visitors should not bring fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, meats and meat products into the U.S.A. without first obtaining information on their entry status and a permit (if required) from the U. S. Embassy in their country. Visitors must declare all such materials in their possession to the Custom's Officer or Agricultural Quarantine Inspector at the U. S. port of entry.



## **Pets**

If you plan to bring pets such as dogs, cats, monkeys or psittacine birds (parrots) with you, you can obtain information regarding U.S. regulations on their entry and travel from the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country or from Center for Disease Control, Foreign Quarantine Program, Atlanta, Georgia 30333.

These sources will be able to help you obtain local rules or regulations regarding pets at both your point of arrival and final destination in the U.S.A.

## **Formalities on Departure**

If during your visit you have received income that is effectively connected with U.S. trade or business, such as wages received for the performance of personal services within the U.S., or if you have received other U.S. sourced income which, although not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, does constitute fixed or determinable periodic income you may be subject to U.S. income tax. In that event, prior to departure, you should contact the nearest district director's office of the Internal Revenue Service.

## **Insurance**

In the U.S.A., insurance to cover personal health, accidents, or medical expenses, and automobile liability is the responsibility of each individual. American International Underwriters offices in many countries and the offices of the American Automobile Association (AAA) in Europe and New York sell short-term automobile insurance to motorists planning to visit the U.S.A. American International Underwriters also sell accident and hospital coverage intended especially for visitors to the U.S.A. For further information about automobile insurance contact your local automobile club or the American Automobile Association in Europe or to AAA, International Travel Department, 1712 G Street, Washington, D.C. 20006. Railway, bus and air terminals in the U.S.A. sell accident insurance policies on individual journeys. These are usually bought at insurance counters or from vending machines.

## Climate

The climate in the U.S.A. varies considerably from region to region. You will find that in most states, regardless of the season, the percentage of sunny days is surprisingly high. The changes in temperature between winter and summer are minimized by the general use of central air heating and air-conditioning. Most of the stores, offices, hotels, restaurants and cinemas, for instance, are air-conditioned in summer. The average minimum temperature during winter (January), and the average maximum temperature in summer (July) are shown for selected U.S. cities on the adjoining map. The third figure represents the annual percentage of sunny days. Temperatures are given in Fahrenheit thermometric scale. Below is a comparison chart between Fahrenheit and Centigrade.

Centigrade	Fahrenheit	Centigrade	Fahrenheit
40°	104.0°	17	62.6
39	102.2	16	60.8
38	100.4	15	59.0
37	98.6	14	57.2
36	96.8	13	55.4
35	95.0	12	53.6
34	93.2	11	51.8
33	91.4	10	50.0
32	89.6	9	48.2
31	87.8	8	46.4
30	86.0	7	44.6
29	84.2	6	42.8
28	82.4	5	41.0
27	80.6	4	39.2
26	78.8	3	37.4
25	77.0	2	35.6
24	75.2	1	33.8
23	73.4	0	32.0
22	71.6	-1	30.2
21	69.8	-2	28.4
20	68.0	-3	26.6
19	66.2	-4	24.8
18	64.4	-5	23.0

## Packing

Here are a few clues. (1) If you plan to visit the U.S.A. in winter, you'll be far more comfortable indoors wearing light-weight woolen dresses or suits. Central heating temperatures are set higher than in most other countries. (2) Formal clothing is seldom required in the U.S.A. Cocktail dresses for women and dark suits for men are quite appropriate for the theatre, most nightclubs and informal dinner parties. (3) If you use an electric razor or a travel iron, you should bring an adapter plug for use in U.S. electric outlets. Electric current in the U.S.A. is generally 110-115 volt, 60-cycle AC, as compared to the 220-240 volt DC, or 220-240 volt, 50-cycle AC currents in most other countries.



# Temperatures

## Alabama

Birmingham 35/90

## Alaska

Anchorage 6/65

## Arkansas

Little Rock 32/93

## California

San Francisco 45/64 (66)

Los Angeles 45/82 (74)

## Colorado

Denver 20/86 (70)

## Connecticut

New Haven 26/85

## Delaware

Wilmington 25/87

## Florida

Miami 63/87

St. Petersburg 52/90

## Georgia

Atlanta 37/87

## Hawaii

Honolulu 54/88

## Idaho

Boise 20/91

## Illinois

Chicago 17/85 (58)

## Indiana

Indianapolis 23/83

## Iowa

Des Moines 14/88

## Kansas

Topeka 21/92

## Kentucky

Lexington 25/84

## Louisiana

New Orleans 48/90 (61)

## Maine

Portland 11/78

## Maryland

Wilmington 25/87

## New Hampshire

Concord 9/83

## New Jersey

Atlantic City 29/79

## New Mexico

Albuquerque 21/91

## New York

New York City 26/84 (60)

## North Carolina

Charlotte 32/88

## North Dakota

Bismarck 1/85

## Ohio

Cleveland 23/80



## Oklahoma

Oklahoma City 28/93

## Oregon

Portland 34/79

## Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh 25/85

Philadelphia 28/85

## Rhode Island

Providence 23/82

## South Carolina

Charleston 39/89

## Massachusetts

Boston 22/80

## Michigan

Detroit 19/84

## Minnesota

Minneapolis-St. Paul 6/85

## Mississippi

Jackson 38/99

## Missouri

Kansas City 21/91 (62)

St. Louis 25/89

## Montana

Butte 0/79

## Nebraska

Omaha 13/89

## Nevada

Reno 17/92

Las Vegas 33/105

## South Dakota

Rapid City 9/86

## Tennessee

Nashville 30/90

## Texas

Dallas 36/95 (66)

## Utah

Salt Lake City 21/91 (69)

## Vermont

Montpelier 9/82

## Virginia

Richmond 30/87

## Washington

Seattle 36/75 (45)

## West Virginia

Charleston 26/87

## Wisconsin

Madison 12/82

## Wyoming

Caspa 12/86

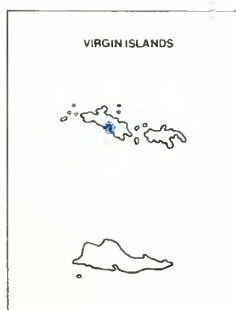
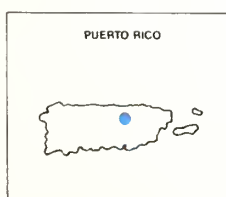
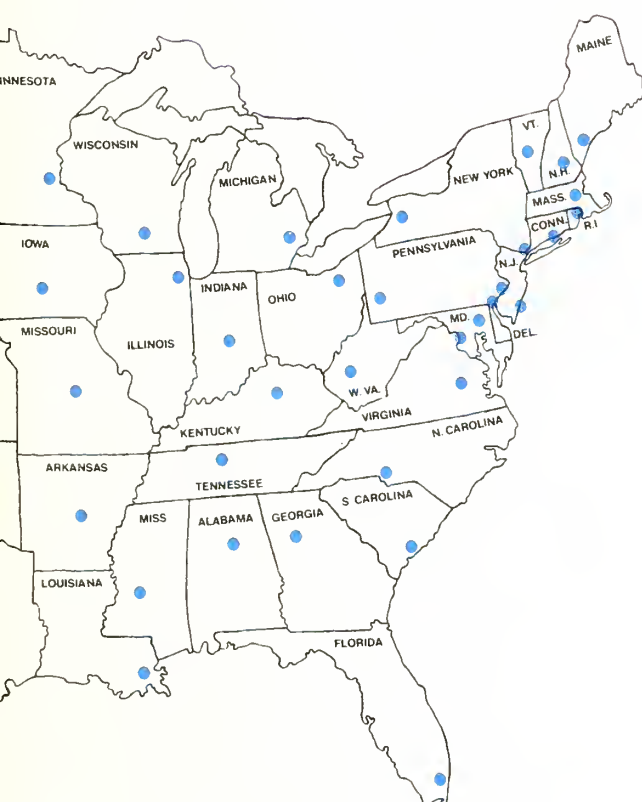
Washington, D.C. 28/87 (58)

## Puerto Rico

San Juan 70/84

## Virgin Islands

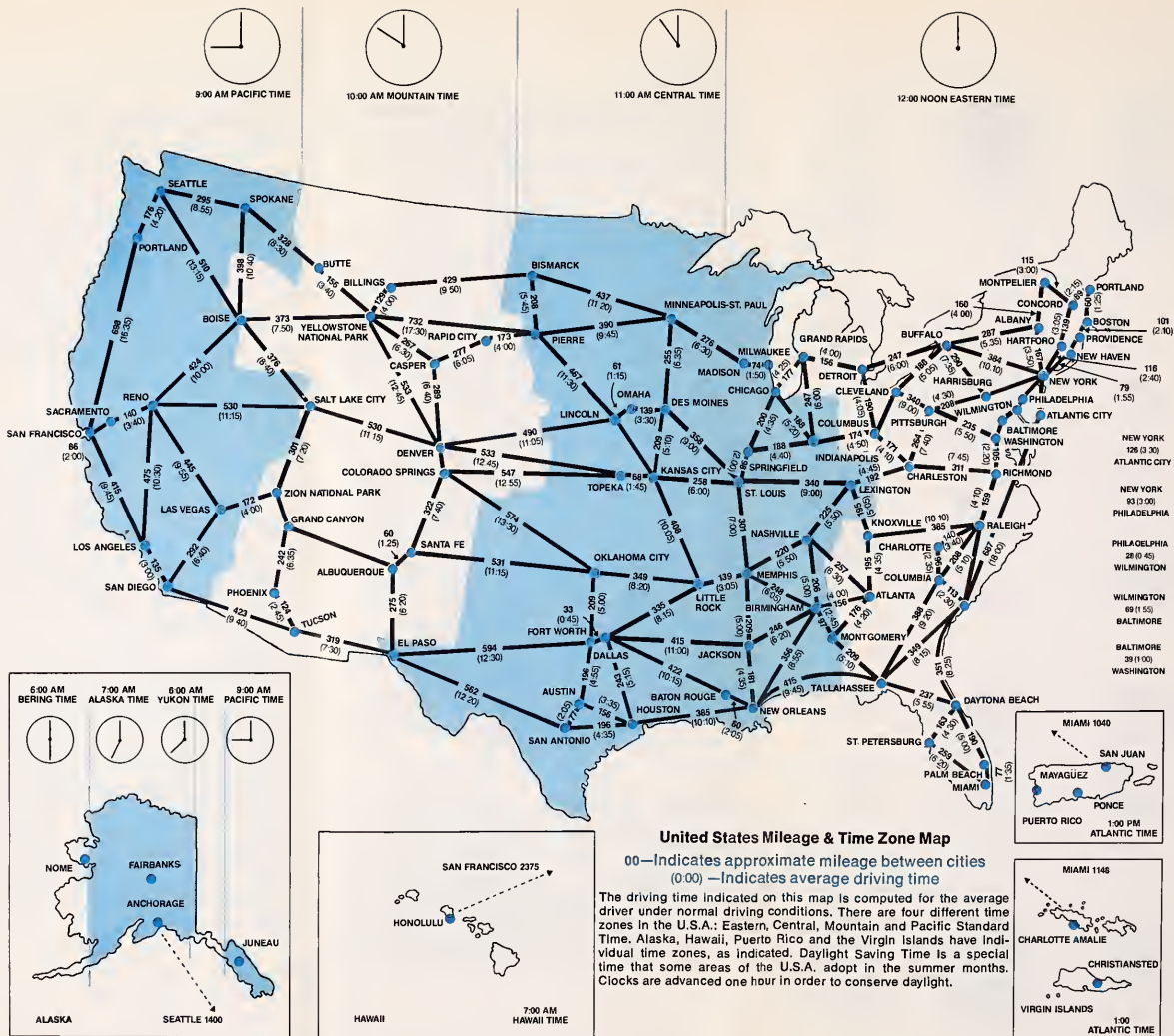
Charlotte Amalie 70/84



How to visit the U.S.A.









It is against the law to exceed the limit shown on these signs.



Eight-sided sign means STOP.



You are not allowed to make a "U" turn — a complete change of direction — on this road.



Sides of the road are soft and dangerous. Stay on the paved portion of the road.



Road entering on your left.



Combination of diamond and square sign means sharp right turn... and recommended speed not more than 20 miles per hour.



Approaching top of a steep hill. Slow down.



Road crossing this road.



A round sign like this means railroad crossing. Stop and look in both directions.



You are not allowed to park your car in this particular area.



Slow down or stop to give way to cars on the intersecting road.



A broken line defines traffic lanes. You may cross it, if doing so does not interfere with traffic.



A solid line separates opposing traffic lanes. You should keep in lane, but you may cross it when conditions are favorable for you to do so. Be cautious.



A double solid line means that you must keep in lane and cannot cross this marking. It is most commonly found on hills and curves.

## **Transportation**

Distances in the U.S.A. are immense and have always been a challenge to man. As a result, means of transportation are undergoing constant change. Coast-to-coast rail passenger service is available but few people in the U.S.A. use trains for long-distance journeys.

### **Air Travel**

There are 32 scheduled airlines in the U.S.A. serving more than 950 cities. You can fly almost anywhere at the spur of the moment. It takes 5½ hours by air to go from New York to San Francisco and you have 44 daily flights to choose from. Transportation from and to the airport is by special buses, limousines or taxi. Or you can rent a car right at the airport. To give visitors from abroad a chance to discover how easy it is to "travel the U.S.A." by airplane, U. S. airlines now offer considerable discounts to overseas visitors. Ask at your travel agent for information on these reduced costs.

### **Motoring in the U.S.A.**

If your country is party to the Geneva Road Traffic Convention of 1949 or the 1943 Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automobile Traffic, valid domestic registration plates, the international driving permit and your own driver's license is valid in all 50 states of the United States for one year from date of entry into the country.

There are no import duties to pay when you bring your car into the U.S. in connection with your arrival and take it with you when you depart. Ask your nearest United States Travel Service office, your automobile club or the company from which you rent a car in the United States to give you an international sticker for the car and a driving envelope for your travel documents. The envelope identifies you, carries useful information for police officers on your driving documents, and information that will be helpful to you in operating a car in the United States.

### **Rental Cars**

Rental cars are available everywhere in the U.S.A. and can be rented in one city, driven to another city and left there without additional charges. A car can be rented in New York, driven to California, left there, and you fly back to New York. There are many types of cars available. Rates can vary from \$5.00 to \$16.00 per day plus 5¢ to 15¢ per mile. Cars can also be rented by the week without a mileage rate or limit. Rates are considerably less if a long trip is planned. Special discounts on these rates are available to visitors to the U.S.A.



## Used Cars

Another, and inexpensive, way to drive your own car is to purchase a second-hand car, use it during your visit, and resell it before you leave the U.S.A. Generally, a good, usable automobile can be purchased for 50% to 75% below the cost of a new car anywhere in the U.S.A. and resold, after several months of use, at no more than \$300.00 to \$600.00 less than what you paid for it. It is important to obtain a title or bill of sale for the car when it is purchased. The car must be registered in the state in which it is bought. Usually a large automobile dealer can handle all the paperwork for you and frequently you may have the car on the same day. However, citizens of other countries may find it difficult to insure a car. That's why all motorists from abroad are urged to purchase automobile insurance in their home countries before coming to the U.S.A. (See "Insurance" page 15).

## Fuel & Repairs

Petrol is cheap (from 28¢ to 40¢ a gallon—or 7¢ to 10¢ a liter) and available practically everywhere. There are over 150,000 service stations along the highways that provide gas, repair service, free maps, toilet facilities, and information for the traveller. Many large oil companies have touring services that will plan a complete itinerary for you and clearly outline the fastest or most scenic route to your destination. Points of interest are recommended, and information regarding restaurants, and hotels is also provided. All this is done at no charge to you at all. Addresses of Touring Centers provided by oil companies can be obtained from your travel agent.

## Highways

North and south, east and west, excellent, fast 2 and 4 lane super highways permit the motorist to by-pass industrial areas and cities if he chooses, and to reach practically every village in the country. Even rural highways are usually well paved with adequate road signs and route numbers that correspond to those on your map. On some—but not all—super highways tolls (10¢-\$2.00) must be paid. Speed limits are posted along all roads. CAUTION: They are strictly enforced. Penalties and fines for traffic violations can be substantial. Highway maps are available—free—at almost all service stations. Detailed information regarding motor-ing in the U.S.A., insurance, rules and regulations, can be obtained from your local automobile club, or your travel agent.

## Bus Travel

Bus lines (Motor Coaches) offer the least expensive form of inter-city and long distance travel. And bus lines in the U.S.A. now offer special fare reductions to visitors with a foreign passport. The visitor may buy one month of unlimited travel on either Continental Trailways or Greyhound for \$99.00 or 3 months for \$165.00. These tickets are not sold in the U.S.A., they must be purchased before the visitor arrives. This unlimited fare offers a great opportunity for extensive travel in the U.S.A. For example: A passenger could begin a tour of the U.S.A. in New York City, travel to the West Coast via the southern route, then return to New York City via the northern route, stopping at various places of interest along the way, provided the whole trip is made within the time limit. Inquire at your travel agent's, shipline or airline office. There are no motor coaches with sleeping facilities in the U.S.A., but the reclining seats are extremely comfortable and the buses air-conditioned and heated. Many have restrooms.

## Urban Transportation

The large U. S. cities vary in the means of transportation each offers: *Bus* service in both large and small cities is excellent. Buses also serve suburban areas. Most city fares are flat rates, regardless of the distance covered. The bus driver collects your fare in the fare box. In some cities, however, you are required to have the exact change for deposit in the fare box. New York, Boston and Philadelphia have subways (metros), Chicago—elevated-subway trains, San Francisco—its famous cable cars. Whatever the transportation, maps of the system can be obtained from the city's Visitor's Bureau. *Taxis* are usually plentiful at airports, bus terminals and hotels. Taxis can be found at "taxi" and "hack" stands but in larger cities they cruise the streets and can be hailed. Major hotels in large cities sometimes have a list of foreign language-speaking drivers who may be hired for tours, or merely to help visitors to find their way around the city. Taxi fares vary from place to place. They tend to be more economical in larger cities. An average taxi fare in New York is \$1.45 not including the tip, (which should be 15%).

## Sightseeing Tours

Many bus lines offer sightseeing tours in cities and along scenic routes. Some last only a few hours—others several days. Special sightseeing companies provide all kinds of tours, from famous landmarks to nightclubs, and from boat trips to helicopter sightseeing. A tour of Washington, D.C. lasting about 2½ hours costs \$6.50; for children under 12—\$3.25. Reservations for extended tours can be made in advance through your travel agent. Ask for special rates available to foreign visitors only.

## Accommodations

Americans are great travellers. The whole country is geared to provide for the needs and comforts of travellers, and to make travelling easy. But American ways are in many respects different.

## Reservations

Reservations should be made in advance for hotels and motels in major U.S. cities, as well as accommodations in National Parks and resorts. Your travel specialist can make the arrangements, and advise you on special rates offered only to overseas visitors. Once you are in the U.S.A. most hotels and motels will give you free assistance in making and confirming further reservations along your route.

## Hotels

Virtually all hotel rooms have a private bathroom with toilet and tub or shower; soap and stacks of towels are always supplied. Rooms are also often equipped with radio and TV sets. Hundreds of hotels have staff members who speak Spanish, French, German or Japanese. (Ask your travel agent for details.) Reception on arrival is informal and simple. Guests register at the reception desk, are greeted by a room clerk, then taken to their rooms by the bellman who carries the luggage. He is the only one to be tipped. Services are requested not by ringing a bell but by phone. In many large hotels you can dial "Room Service" to order food or beverages, "Valet Service" for laundry, dry cleaning or shoe shine (do not leave shoes outside your door), and "Bellman" or "Maid Service". In other hotels you dial "O"—and ask the Operator for the service you want. Hotel room prices vary, of course—the range is from \$7.00 or \$8.00 a day and up per person. The price does not include meals (except in the case of resort-type hotels) and the service charge usually will not be included in your bill. Children can sleep in the same room as their parents on portable cots at a reduced rate or free. If you plan to stay longer ask if the hotel offers weekly rates. Some do. Most hotels have a restaurant, bar, coffee shop, travel desk, theatre ticket office, barber and beauty salon right on the premises. "Check-out time" is posted in every room. In hotels it is usually between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. (1500 hrs.). Guests who stay beyond the posted time are charged an additional day's rate unless special arrangements have been made in advance with the assistant manager or front-desk clerk.



## **Motels**

The guest can park his car at the door of his own room at these "motor hotels" located near cities, along all principal U. S. highways and in the center of most cities. Many motels are—in design, accommodations and service—every bit as comfortable, and indeed, as luxurious, as the most modern hotels. Many have fine restaurants as well as more casual eating facilities. If not, there are always restaurants nearby. Like in hotels, rooms are equipped with TV sets. There often is a swimming pool. The price range for rooms is about the same as in hotels.

## **Motor Courts**

A motor court is a more modest version of a motel. Guests are lodged in separate, small cottages (cabins) equipped with bath or shower. There is no restaurant, but there may be a swimming pool.

## **Tourist Homes and "Guest" Homes**

These accommodations abound in smaller towns and resort areas located in scenic spots. The motorist will find a variety of private homes with rooms for tourists, identifiable by signs posted outside: "Tourist Home", "Tourists", "Rooms". Many serve meals. No reservations are required in advance, and the prices are lower than in hotels. Vacations at farms in the U. S. can be arranged by your travel agent.

## **Dude Ranches**

Dude Ranches are actual ranches or farms operated as informal resorts with horseback riding and other outdoor activities for guests. For further information contact your travel agent. In the western section of the U.S.A.: Dude Ranch Association, P.O. Box 1363, Billings, Montana 59103.

In the eastern section of the U.S.A.: Eastern Dude Ranch Association, Room 316, 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10003.

## **Hostels**

There are 95 Youth Hostels in the U.S.A. open to members of all international youth hostels organizations. They are located primarily in the Northeastern states and in California. The charge is from \$1.00 to \$2.00 a night. For complete information on available activities inquire at your own local organization, or write directly to: National Headquarters, American Youth Hostels, Inc., 20 West 17th Street, New York, N. Y. 10011.

## **YMCA & YWCA**

All major cities have them. Young Men and Young Women Christian Associations (you need not be a Christian to use their facilities) provide accommodations at lower costs than most hotels and motels. They are usually centrally located and have swimming pools and gymnasiums. But, because of their popularity, reservations must be made in advance. Write directly to the YMCA or YWCA in the city you plan to visit or your travel agent.

## **Camping**

Camping enthusiasts have a vast choice of sites. Camping facilities are available on camp grounds maintained by the National Parks, National Forests, State Parks and some commercially-operated parks. Most camp grounds are equipped with drinking water, sanitary arrangements, and fireplaces for outdoor cooking. The use of these facilities is either free or at a nominal cost. Information on camping in National Parks can be obtained from your travel agent.

## **Meals**

Breakfast in the U.S.A. is a varied and often substantial meal. You can choose fruit juice, toast or rolls with butter and preserves; eggs and bacon or ham; or hot cakes and waffles; or cereals with milk or cream, sugar and fresh fruit; and tea or coffee. A simple breakfast would consist of fruit juice, coffee or tea and toast, rolls or a bun. Luncheon, with the exception of business and social luncheons, tends to be light and brief. Dinner is the big meal of the day. Restaurants usually serve dinner from 6:00 P.M. (1800 hrs.) until 9:00 P.M. (2100 hrs.). In large cities you can dine later.

## **Restaurants**

Restaurants in the U.S.A. cover the whole range of eating from international to local cuisine, and from very expensive to moderately priced. (Ask about regional specialties: Such as Maine lobster, Southern fried chicken, Southwestern barbecued meats.) The cost of meals may be: Breakfast 75¢ to \$2.50. Lunch \$1.00 to \$5.00. Dinner \$1.50 to \$10.00 and up.

## **Hotels**

Most hotels have their own dining rooms. In larger ones you'll also find small, less expensive coffee shops and snack bars open all day and night. They are convenient for breakfast and late snacks. Many budget-minded people lunch and dine there, too.

### **Cafeterias**

Visitors who don't speak English find them a special boon. Cafeterias offer a wide choice of daily specials, at modest prices from which anything from a snack to a meal can be selected. You pick up your tray and table setting, point to the dishes you want, pay the cashier, and seat yourself wherever you wish. No tipping. The average cost of meals: Breakfast 50¢ to \$1.50. Lunch 75¢ to \$2.00. Dinner \$1.00 to \$2.50.

### **Drugstores**

Many drugstores have booths or counters where you can eat. They usually serve sandwiches, full breakfasts, salads, soft drinks, pastries and a rich variety of ice cream dishes. The average cost of meals: Breakfast 50¢ to \$1.00. Lunch 75¢ to \$1.50. Dinner \$1.00 to \$2.00.

### **Snack Bars and Grills**

Some snack bars and grills are simple and inexpensive. Others more elegant and higher priced. They serve a varied menu, many also serve alcoholic beverages. The average cost of meals at the modest ones: Breakfast 25¢ to \$1.00. Lunch 50¢ to \$1.50. Dinner \$1.00 to \$2.50.

### **Drive-in and Roadside Restaurants**

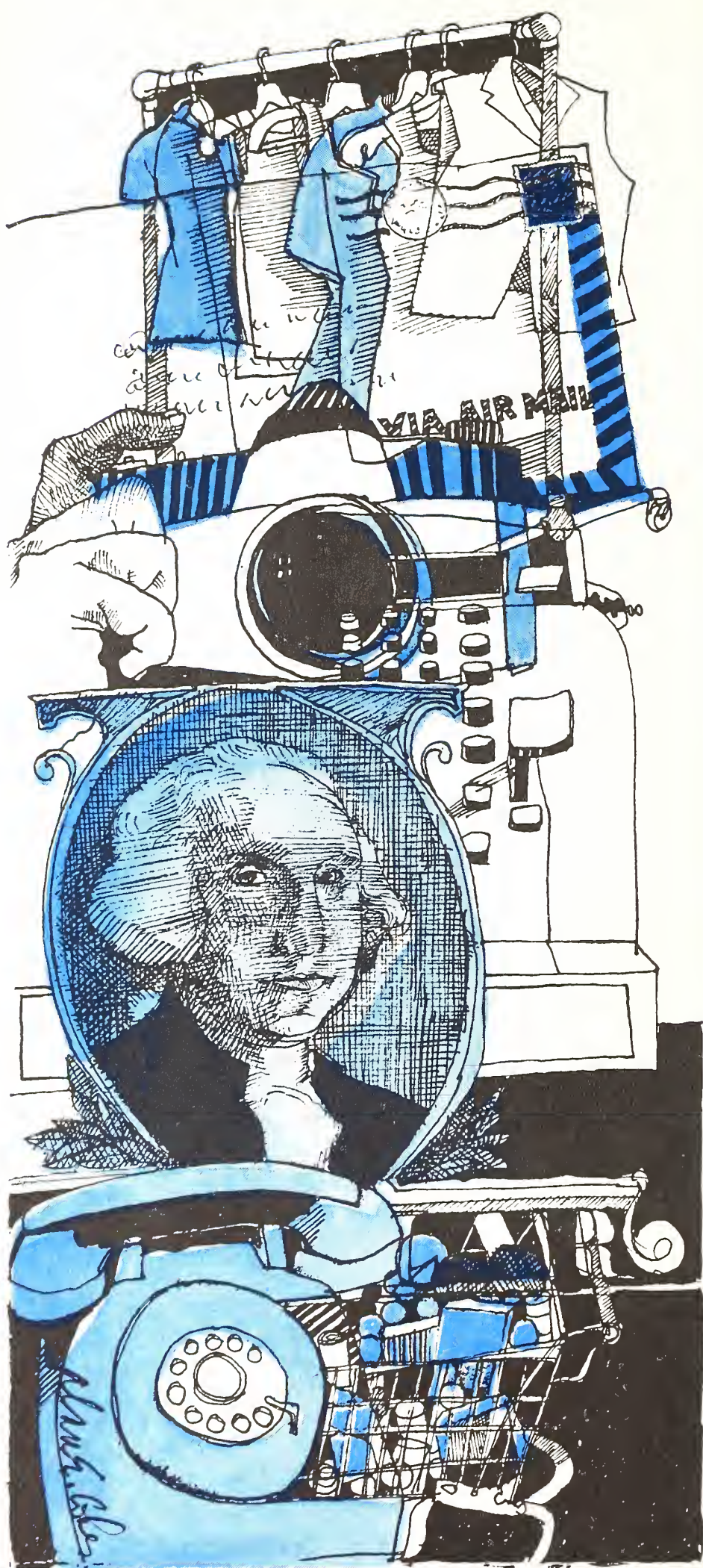
Travellers in a hurry can drive into a car park where the order is taken by a waiter or waitress, and the food is brought to the car. Or you order over a public address system. Or you place your order at a window and you collect it yourself to return and eat in the auto. Most drive-in restaurants and all roadside restaurants also have a counter and/or dining room inside. Average cost of meals: Breakfast 50¢ to \$1.00. Lunch 75¢ and up. Dinner 75¢ and up.

### **Wines & Liquors**

The laws governing the sale of alcoholic beverages are the responsibility of each state, and they vary widely. In most states cocktails, wines and beer are sold in restaurants, cocktail lounges and bars. Bottled liquor, wines and beer are sold in wine and spirit stores, and in some supermarkets or drugstores you can buy beer and wine. But in some states the sale of spirits is strictly limited to a state-licensed liquor store: cocktails cannot be sold by restaurants. One state allows the sale of beer only. However, the laws in most large cities are quite liberal. And prices are reasonable.



# Life in the U.S.A.



## Holidays

On the following public legal holidays, museums, libraries, banks, post offices and some stores, nightclubs and restaurants are closed: New Year's Day (January 1), George Washington's Birthday (third Monday in February), Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Independence Day (July 4); Labor Day (first Monday in September), Columbus Day (second Monday in October), Veteran's Day (fourth Monday in October), Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November), and Christmas Day (December 25). In addition there are holidays observed on a state or local basis such as Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (February 12) and Election Day (Tuesday after the first Monday in November). On such days, while most public facilities are closed, some stores are likely to be open.

## Money

There are no restrictions on the amount of money visitors may bring into the U. S. A. The basic unit of currency is the dollar bill (\$1.00 = 100 cents). Shown below are the U. S. coins in circulation. Paper money or bills in circulation come in \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00, \$50.00, \$100.00, \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 denominations. The U. S. statesmen pictured on bills differ according to denomination and the amount is clearly shown but all bills are the same color and size. So, to avoid mistakes, it is better to keep \$1.00 bills and larger denomination bills separated.



Penny (1 cent)  
100 Pennies = \$1.00



Nickel (5 cents)  
20 Nickels = \$1.00



Dime (10 cents)  
10 Dimes = \$1.00



Quarter (25 cents)  
4 Quarters = \$1.00





\$20.00

### Currency Exchange

Visitors can usually exchange their currency into U. S. dollars at the port of entry. But to be on the safe side, it is better to bring a few U. S. bills along since hotels in the U. S. A. do not, as a rule, exchange currency, as do hotels in other countries. All banks in the U. S. can exchange foreign currency, or direct you where to do so. It is advisable, however, to exchange your currency in larger cities. Banks are usually open from Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. (0900 hrs.) to 2:00 P.M. or 3:00 P.M. (1400 or 1500 hrs.).

### Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques in U. S. dollars are a safe and convenient way to carry your money. Your local bank will advise you on their purchase and the method of cashing them. Travellers cheques are generally accepted in the U. S. A. by banks, hotels, restaurants, and stores.

### Letters of Credit

Letters of Credit allow you a certain amount of money to rely on in case of emergency, or for some large purchase. Your bank can arrange for such a letter with its corresponding bank in the U. S. A.





\$1.00

### Shopping Assistance

There are more than 100 big department stores in the U. S. A. Many of these stores have a “shopper’s service” that can help a visitor, especially one unfamiliar with the language, in the selection of merchandise. They can also advise about shipping or mailing purchases to your home address if you want to avoid extra baggage on your return trip. (You will have to consult your Consulate on the possible custom charges.) Inquire at the Information Desk in the store for this shopping assistance. Stores are open usually every day of the week except Sunday, from about 9:30 A.M. (0930 hrs.) until 6:00 P.M. (1800 hrs.), and in addition may have “late” hours until 9:00 P.M. (2100 hrs.) one or two evenings a week. Some stores are closed on Saturday during July and August.

### Self-Service Shopping

Shopping in the U. S. A. is made easy in every way. You’ll find all kinds of stores (including many department stores) where you need no assistance to shop even if you don’t know the language. And the selection of merchandise is tremendous. Some of these stores are typically American. For instance:

### **Supermarkets**

They are part of every residential section and most business areas throughout the U. S. A. Supermarkets carry everything from groceries and fresh farm produce to toiletries, hardware and the latest gramophone records. They usually stay open later than other stores, and almost always have convenient parking facilities.

### **Drugstores (Chemists)**

Their origin goes back to the days when the Pharmacy was the only store allowed to stay open late and on Sundays. To provide for all kinds of emergencies pharmacists stocked other items. Today all drugstores sell pharmaceuticals and have registered pharmacists and prescription departments but most of them also sell cigarettes and candy, cosmetics, stationery, film, periodicals, books, etc. Often they also have "soda fountains" where ice cream, soft drinks and light meals are served.

### **Shopping Centers**

If you travel in the U. S. A. by car you will see them everywhere surrounded by a sea of cars (often more than 1,000 at once). These centers are a whole community of stores, more or less under one continuous roof, which provide all household needs, from shoe repair to beauty salons, besides supermarkets, drugstores, banks and every other kind of store. Often large department stores have branches in suburban shopping centers.

## Comparison Chart of Sizes

### Men's

Suits:	U.S.A.	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
	Metric	46	48	50	52	54	56	58
Shirts:	U.S.A.	14	14½	15	15½	16	16½	17
	Metric	36	37	38	39	41	42	43
Shoes:	U.S.A.	6½	7	8	9	10	10½	11
	Metric	39	40	41	42	43	44	45

### Women's

Suits & Dresses:	U.S.A.	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
	Metric	40	42	44	46	48	50	52
Misses Suits/ Dresses:	U.S.A.		10	12	14	16	18	20
	Metric		38	40	42	44	46	48
Stock- ings:	U.S.A.		8	8½	9	9½	10	10½
	Metric		0	1	2	3	4	5
Shoes:	U.S.A.		5½	6	7	7½	8½	9
	Metric		36	37	38	39	40	41

### Lengths

1 yard = 0.914 meters  
 1 foot = 30.48 centimeters  
 1 inch = 2.54 centimeters

### Weights

1 pound = 0.4536 kilograms  
 1 ounce = 28.35 grams

### Liquids

1 gallon = 3.785 liters  
 1 quart = 0.946 liters  
 1 pint = 0.473 liters

### Distances

Miles	1	5	50	100	1000
Kilometers	1.609	8.045	80.45	160.9	1609



## Mail

Main central post offices in major cities are open 24 hours a day. In smaller cities and towns they are usually open from 8:00 A.M. (0800 hrs.) to 6:00 P.M. (1800 hrs.) from Monday through Friday, half days on Saturdays, and are closed on Sundays and holidays. Branch offices and sub-stations have shorter hours. If you do not know the name of the hotel at which you will be staying in a particular city you can have mail from home sent to you at the Main Post Office of that city, care of General Delivery, as in the following example:

Your Name  
c/o General Delivery  
Main Post Office  
New York, New York

General Delivery mail must be collected in person. Post offices in the U.S.A. perform postal services only, and do not have public telephone and telegraph facilities as they do in some other countries. Stamps, outside of post offices, can be bought from hotel clerks. They are also on sale from vending machines in drugstores, transportation terminals, and at some newsstands, but at an extra charge. Outgoing, stamped mail may be left with the receptionist at the hotel desk, or dropped in letter chutes on each floor of some hotels and office buildings. Mailboxes on street corners are painted red and blue, with white lettering. Always ask for your mail at the hotel desk.

## Postage

Airmail letters to Europe or South America	20¢ (½ ounce*)
Airmail letters within the U.S.A. and to Mexico or Canada	10¢ (1 ounce*)
Airmail letters to Central and South American countries	15¢ (½ ounce*)
Airmail letters to most other countries	25¢ (½ ounce*)
1st Class letters (by surface transportation) within the U.S.A. and to Canada or Mexico	6¢ (1 ounce*)
1st Class letters (by surface transportation) to all other countries	13¢ (1 ounce*)
Airmail Post Cards within the U.S.A.	8¢ each
Airmail Post Cards to Canada or Mexico	8¢ each
Airmail Post Cards to all other countries	13¢ each
Post Cards (by surface transportation) within the U.S.A.	5¢ each
Post Cards (by surface transportation) to Canada or Mexico	5¢ each
Post Cards (by surface transportation) to all other countries	8¢ each
Air Letter forms to all countries	13¢ each
*1 ounce = 28.35 grams	

Telephones

Public telephones are always on hand. They can be found in transportation terminals, hotel lobbies, drugstores, tobacco shops, most restaurants, petroleum stations, in sidewalk booths and along highways. The “dial” system is universal. Telephone directories are found beside almost every public phone. There are two kinds: the General Directory for alphabetical listing by surname, and the Classified Directory (Yellow Pages) for alphabetical listing by business and service category. To use a coin telephone, simply follow the instructions on the phone box. Local calls from coin telephones usually cost 10¢ (one dime). When making long-distance calls in the U.S. consult the Operator (dial “O”). Be sure to have plenty of small coins. In hotels, the switchboard operator will either place your outside call, or instruct you how to dial directly from your room. You will be billed for all outside calls and pay for them when you check out. To place a call outside the U.S.A., dial “O”, and ask for the “Overseas Operator”. If the lines are busy, she will call you back when she has one available, or make an appointment for a definite time to place your call.

Telephone Rates

From most cities in the United States you can make a 3-minute telephone call to any place in the continental U.S.A. between 8:00 p.m. (2000 hrs.) and 4:30 a.m. (0430 hrs.) and anytime on Sundays for no more than \$1.00 (plus 10% tax). In these same cities, evening calls cost more and day rates are the highest. It is usually slightly less if you dial direct rather than through an operator. A typical rate for three minutes from Washington to Chicago is:

	Day	Evening	Night
(Direct Dial)	\$0.95 (plus 10% tax)	\$0.60 (plus 10% tax)	\$0.60 (plus 10% tax)
(With Operator Assistance)	\$1.20 (plus 10% tax)	\$0.75 (plus 10% tax)	\$0.60 (plus 10% tax)

Since rates vary from city to city, it is best to check with the local operator to determine when discount rates are available. Calls to Europe and South America vary according to the country you are calling. A typical rate is \$12.00 for three minutes. The Overseas Operator can tell you if there are periods when cheaper rates apply. The time varies from country to country.

## Telegraph

All telegrams to U. S. points are sent through Western Union. To send a message ask for assistance at your hotel or go to the nearest Western Union office, which you will find listed in the Classified Telephone Directory under "Telegraph". Overseas cablegrams can be sent through any cable company (also listed under "Telegraph") or via Western Union. Rates for telegrams and cablegrams vary according to destination. Receipts are not usually given for telegrams and cables, but you may request a copy of the message sent.

## Tipping

Hotels do not add a percentage to your bill to cover gratuities. Therefore it is customary to tip the bellboy who carries your luggage 25¢ or more per case, and others who perform special services such as, the doorman (about 25¢ when he summons a taxi or possibly as much as 50¢ when he helps load the luggage, or takes the car to the garage). Do not tip the receptionist or the lift operator. You need not tip the chambermaid unless you stay several days. No service charge is included in the bill in dining rooms, restaurants, and nightclubs; a 15% tip (before Tax is added) is customary. stewards and stewardesses on a plane are not tipped. However, the porters at the airport should be tipped about 35¢ a bag. No tipping is required on buses, but porters who assist you with the luggage at terminals should be tipped. In taxicabs, a 15% tip is usual. Tips in barbershops and beauty parlors are slightly higher. Men tip the barber for the haircut and shave, and shoeshine-man for a shoeshine and clothes brushing. Women tip the hairdresser, the girl who shampoos hair and the manicurist. No tipping is required for ushers in theatres and cinemas.

## Religious Services

All major religious faiths are represented in the U. S. A., and there are innumerable places of worship throughout the country. Most hotels have a church directory in the lobby, or you can ask the hotel desk clerk for information. Many newspapers carry announcements of church services. Complete listings can be found in the Classified Telephone Directory under "Churches" and "Synagogues."



## Laundry and Dry Cleaning

Visitors find laundry and dry cleaning service efficient, fast, and relatively inexpensive in the U.S.A. Hotels often offer "same-day" service for dry cleaning, pressing and laundry. Just call Valet Service or Laundry Service, and tell them you want "same-day" service (regular service takes longer). Many hotels provide irons and ironing boards for guests who want to do their own pressing. If your hotel does not provide these services, the desk clerk can direct you to the nearest shop. There are also numerous automatic laundries where you can wash and dry laundry yourself in coin operated machines. Here are typical prices: *Automatic Laundry*: 25¢-50¢ a load. *Hand Laundry*: Shirts 25¢-40¢, Washable blouses and dresses 50¢ and up; *Dry Cleaning*: Suits \$1.00-\$2.00, Dresses \$1.00 and up. *Pressing*: Suits 75¢-\$1.50, dresses 75¢ and up.

## Assistance

In the U. S. A. the person to phone in case of any emergency is the Telephone Operator. Just dial "O" from any phone. She will connect you, in a matter of seconds, with the right person to handle your problem. If you have a language difficulty, she will try to find an interpreter for you.

## Photography

Film for almost any type of camera is generally available in the U. S. A. To have your film developed you can leave it at a camera shop, drugstore or even some newsstands. If you are about to leave for another city, ask for "pre-paid processing." In this way you pay for the developing in advance and prepay postage. The pictures will be sent directly to your new address.

## Health

In case you should need a doctor the receptionist or the telephone operator in your hotel will call one for you. You can also get the name of a reliable doctor through the superintendent of a public hospital. Your own country's Embassy or Consulate also has lists of doctors. Hospitals are listed in the Classified Telephone Directory. If you have secured a medical insurance policy, check the claims procedures carefully as soon as you receive the policy. Should you need attention at a hospital, tell your attending doctor of the insurance. In some larger cities, the Medical and Dental Societies can direct you to a doctor who speaks your language.

## Interpreters

It is helpful, of course, to know English when you come to the U.S.A. But a visitor can enjoy the visit without a knowledge of the language. For visitors unfamiliar with English, multi-lingual personnel are on hand at all international airports, as well as ports of entry, and in big hotels and department stores. In many cities, especially larger ones, you will find signs in store windows announcing what foreign language is spoken inside. The Visitor's Bureau in any large city will help you locate an interpreter. While in small localities it is usually enough to look lost and tell what your own language is; someone will find someone who can at least understand. People in the U.S.A. are helpful.





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U.S. Department of Commerce

USTS 417-E